

## Introduction

This is the Fiscal Year 1998-1999 (FY98-99) report of the Department of Children's Services (DCS). DCS produces this report to meet the requirements of the Tennessee Code and to inform the people of Tennessee of Departmental activities. The report is organized into four sections and two appendices.

- First, the report provides a brief overview of major Departmental initiatives in FY98-99.
- Second, the report explains and describes DCS services such as Child Protection, Foster Care, Adoptions, Emancipation Services, Juvenile Education Academies, Probation, and Residential Services and includes statistics concerning these specific programs.
- The third section of the report consists of DCS statewide commitment and custody figures including demographic, adjudication, and placement statistics.
- The fourth and final section of the report describes the DCS organizational structure.
- Appendix 1 describes DCS geographic regions and includes region and county level statistics.
- Appendix 2 is a glossary of DCS terms.

Data for this report came from multiple sources. The Child Protective Services Social Service Management System (SSMS) provided the statistics on child protection. Statistics on DCS commitments were taken from the Client Operation and Review System (CORS). The CORS database was the primary system of data collection from the time DCS became a separate department in 1996 until CORS was replaced by the TN KIDS information system in the fall of 1999. CORS was used to collect general information and demographic data and to track the location and status of children referred to DCS care. Program management staff submitted other program-specific statistics and case studies. Names and the exact details of the stories of these children were changed to preserve child and family privacy.